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phlet it was pointed out that one of the main duties of a Ministry of Health would be the prosecution of scientific research by the analysis of statistics, among other means, and it was observed that the registrar-general's department could easily be transferred directly to the Ministry of Health.

At that time the registrar-general reported to the president of the Local Government Board, through which board responsibility to Parliament was maintained; but the registrar-general's office was practically an independent government department. The British Medical Association also stated that the information which the registrar-general's department was able to supply was essential to efficient health administration, both central and local, and suggested that the department, on its transfer to the Ministry of Health, should take over the preparation of certain statistics such as those furnished under the Act for the Notification of Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Addison has appointed Mr. S. P. Vivian, an assistant secretary in the Ministry of Health, to be Deputy Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

L. I. D.

A CORRECTION

I wish to call the attention of the readers of the *QUARTERLY* to an error in one numeral in Table III of my article on "Is the New Immigration More Unskilled than the Old?" which appeared in the June, 1919, issue of the *QUARTERLY*. This table, which, as stated, was taken from Volume I, page 174, of the report of the United States Immigration Commission, gives the number of skilled laborers from Southwestern Europe from 1899-1909 inclusive, as 804,920 out of a total immigration from these countries of 5,939,252. Due to some unaccountable slip in copying, however, the percentage derived from these figures was listed as 16.6 when as a matter of fact it should of course have been 13.6. Because of a misunderstanding between the editors of the *QUARTERLY*, I was not furnished with the proof of the article and thus had no opportunity of rechecking the figures and catching the mistake.

I am exceedingly sorry that this error crept into the table. It does not, however, vitiate the conclusion drawn; namely, that there is no marked difference in the percentage of skilled workmen in the "new" as contrasted with the "old" immigration, when these terms are properly defined. With the corrected percentage, 13.6 per cent of the total immigrants from South-eastern Europe from 1899 to 1909 inclusive, were skilled, while only 11.4 per cent of the total immigration from Northwestern Europe for the period 1871-82 were skilled.

PAUL H. DOUGLAS.